30th October 1931]

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"I cannot do it."

Diwan Bahadur M. GOPALASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"May I know whether Bellary is considered to be Kanarese or Telugu area?"

Filling up of vacancies in the posts of District Judges and District Munsifs.

* 240 *Q.*—Rao Sahib B. VENKATARAMAYYA: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state why two posts of District Judges were kept vacant from July 1930 and December 1930 till last month and why five posts of Subordinate Judges and 15 posts of District Munsifs are still kept vacant?

A.—The two vacancies in the posts of District and Sessions Judges which arose on 19th July 1930 and 15th December 1930 were not kept vacant until June 1931 as suggested but were filled up permanently with retrospective effect from the date on which the vacancies arose. Orders filling up the vacancies were not issued until June 1931 because for various reasons it was not possible to arrive at a decision earlier.

The question of filling up the vacancies in the five posts of Subordinate Judges which had necessarily to wait for the orders on the confirmation of District Judges is now under the consideration of the Government.

The vacancies in the posts of District Munsifs are filled up by the High Court. The Government have no information on this point.

Proposal for the abolition of the District Munsif's Court at Cheyyar, North Arcot.

* 241 *Q.*—Mr. V. T. ARASU: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state whether there is any proposal now before the Government to abolish the District Munsif's Court at Cheyyar (North Arcot district)?

A.—No.

Electricity

Charges made by the Madras Electric Supply Corporation, Limited, for the supply of electricity to the public and the Government.

* 242 *Q.*—Rao Sahib C. JAYARAM NAYUDU: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the Government have permitted the Madras Electric Supply Corporation to charge 5 annas per unit for supplying electric current to the public, whereas they are now getting the same at 3 annas per unit in regard to the supply of the electric current to their buildings;

[30th October 1931

(*b*) when this arrangement was made between the Company and the Government;

(*c*) what is the cost per unit incurred by the Madras Electric Supply Corporation; and

(*d*) what will be the cost as estimated by the Government Experts when the supply is to be made from the Pykara Electric Supply Scheme?

A.—(*a*) The rate per unit for lights and fans on a combined circuit is 5 annas for the general public, but large consumers are charged on a sliding scale according to the amount of power used. The Government pay a fixed rate of $3\frac{1}{2}$ annas per unit.

(*b*) With effect from 1st January 1930.

(*c*) The working cost (i.e., excluding capital charges) per unit in 1930 was 1·249 annas.

(*d*) It is not anticipated that power will be supplied to Madras from Pykara but it is estimated that when the Mettur Hydro-Electric Project is completed power could be transmitted and sold in bulk to large consumers such as the Madras Electric Supply Corporation at an approximate average cost of 0·55 anna per unit.

Diwan Bahadur R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar:—"May I ask whether it is not a fact that the Madras Electric Supply Corporation is collecting and holding, without paying interest, large sums as deposit from consumers?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar:—"Notice."

Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed:—"May I know whether it is not a fact that all the articles required for electric work have become far cheaper and have come to pre-war level and whether the Government do not consider it desirable that the rates should be decreased?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar:—"My friend's conclusion depends on the accuracy of his premises; I am not aware of the accuracy of his premises."

Diwan Bahadur C. S. Ratnasabhapati Mudaliyar:—"What was the rate charged to Government before 1930?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar:—"I want notice."

Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed:—"May I ask the hon. the Law Member to call from the firms which are dealing in electrical installations and goods, the present prices of goods and articles which will furnish him the premises which in turn will lead to the reduction of the present rates?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar:—"If the Government will find it necessary, they will call for the information."

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—" May I know whether the hon. Member is aware that large consumers of electricity, including the Corporation of Madras, have complained that the rate is very high? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—" I am not aware of it. "

Diwan Bahadur C. S. RATNASABHAPATI MUDALIYAR:—" May I know whether the Madras Electric Supply Corporation is a consumer or supplier ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—" I believe it is both. "

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI:—" Is not the hon. the Law Member aware that a representation has been made by the Corporation of Madras about the increased rates ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—" I am not aware of it."

Staff recruited for the Pykara Hydro-Electric Scheme.

* 243 *Q.*—Rao Sahib V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of engineers, assistant engineers and accountants recruited in connexion with the Pykara Hydro-Electric Scheme and what are their special technical qualifications and their respective salaries, local and leave allowances;

(*b*) whether these posts were advertised in India; if so, in what all newspapers and how many times; and

(*c*) the number of applications received.

A.—(*a*) A statement [a] is attached.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) The question does not arise.

Rao Sahib V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—" With reference to (*b*), may I know whether there is any special reason for not advertising for these posts ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—" Because the Hydro-Electric Chief Engineer called for applications from both officials and non-officials throughout India and interviewed many of the applicants who had sent in their applications. "

Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGAM CHETTIYAR:—" By advertisement will they not get applications ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—" Not of the required type. "

Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGAM CHETTIYAR:—" In what other way will applications be called for ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—" By correspondence with officers in the Presidency."

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[a] Printed as Appendix III on page 137 infra.